



**Area Safe Communities: Mohall**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Diane Witteman, Mohall Ambulance, 701-756-6183 or Dave Blocker, Mohall Police Chief, 701-263-7402.

### **Mohall Area Launches Awareness Campaign** **Take a Closer Look...Don't Get Benched by Alcohol, Prevent Underage Drinking**

Mohall, N.D. –During MLS's (Mohall, Lansford, Sherwood) Boy's and Girl's District Basketball Tournament, the Area Safe Communities will launch a new awareness campaign. The local campaign is titled "Take a Closer Look...Don't get Benched by Alcohol, Prevent Underage Drinking." This initiative is part of the Mohall Area being selected as a Targeted Community by the Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

During the tournament, members of the community will be handing out team spirit wave rags personalized to MLS. The rags also have the campaign slogan to further enhance the awareness of underage drinking and the coalition's prevention efforts.

"The team spirit wave rags gives the Area Safe Communities Coalition the opportunity to show our support to the MLS Mavericks, while at the same time providing the students and community with an awareness to prevent underage drinking in our community," said Diane Witteman, Mohall Ambulance. "We invite you to show your team spirit by waving your spirit rag at all the district, regional, and state games.

This campaign is part of a statewide campaign used to create awareness of current prevention efforts and programs. In ND, 97% of community members surveyed agree that preventing alcohol and other drug use among youth is important (ND Community Readiness Survey, 2008).

"It's great to see the amount of community support surrounding substance abuse prevention in Mohall and the surrounding areas, said Crystal Kraft, community prevention specialist for the division. "I am pleased to be able to assist in furthering their prevention efforts."

The Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is a leading resource of substance abuse prevention information and efforts in the state. The division operates the North Dakota Prevention Resource and Media Center, which offers free resources to individuals, schools, and communities.

For more information on the services or resources, contact the Prevention Resource and Media Center at 701-328-8919, toll-free 1-800-642-6744 or visit our Web site [www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention).

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